

1 

2 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

3 

4 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

5 

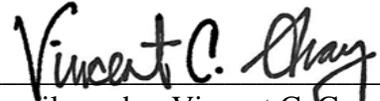
6 Councilmember Charles Allen

7 

8 Councilmember Anita Bonds

9 

10 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

11 

12 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

13 

14 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

15 

16 Councilmember Christina Henderson

17 

18 Councilmember Matthew Frumin

19 

20 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

21
22 A BILL

23
24 _____
25
26 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
27
28 _____
29

30
31 To amend the Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 to exempt associate and graduate social
32 workers from examination for licensure; and to form a task force to identify an
33 assessment method for independent social worker licensure.
34

35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
36 act may be cited as the “Social Work License Modernization Amendment Act of 2023”.

37 Sec. 2. The Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C.
38 Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3–1201.01 *et seq.*) is amended as follows:

39 (a) Section 503(a)(4) (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.03(a)(4)) is amended by striking the
40 phrase “Has passed” and inserting the phrase “If required for licensure by this act, has passed” in
41 its place.

42 (b) Section 801 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.01) is amended as follows:

43 (1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “, and has satisfactorily
44 completed the examination process at the associate level”.

45 (2) New subsection (c) is added to read as follows:

46 “(c) The Board of Social Work shall not require a L.S.W.A to pass an examination as a
47 requirement for licensure.”.

48 (c) Section 802 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.02) is amended as follows:

49 (1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “, and has satisfactorily
50 completed the examination process at the graduate level”.

51 (2) New subsection (c) is added to read as follows:

52 “(c) The Board of Social Work shall not require a L.G.S.W. to pass an examination as a
53 requirement for licensure.”.

54 (d) A New section 807 is added to read as follows:

55 “(a) The Department of Health shall establish a Social Worker Licensure Task Force
56 (“Task Force”) to:

57 “(1) Identify alternatives to examination requirements that may be used to assess
58 an applicant’s fitness for licensure as a licensed independent social worker and a licensed
59 independent clinical social worker;

60 “(2) Develop recommendations for an assessment method for independent social
61 work practice to replace the Association of Social Work Boards examination;

62 “(3) Provide a report of findings to the Council no later than 1 year after the
63 effective date of this act.

64 “(b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

65 “(1) The Director of the Department of Health, or the Director’s designee;

66 “(2) The Director of the Department of Human Services, or the Director’s
67 designee;

68 “(3) The Director of the Department of Behavioral Health, or the Director’s
69 designee;

70 “(4) The Chair of the Board of Social Work, or the Chair’s designee;

71 “(5) One representative of the DC Chapter of the National Association of Social
72 Workers, designated by the Executive Director of the DC Chapter of the National Association of
73 Social Workers;

74 “(6) The following members appointed by the Mayor:

75 “(A) One representative from the DC Behavioral Health Association;

76 “(B) At least 3 representatives from non-governmental social service
77 agencies; and

78 “(C) At least 3 Masters of Social Work or Bachelor of Social Work
79 graduates, at least 1 of whom has been negatively impacted by examination;

80 “(c) The Mayor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

81 “(d) The Department of Health shall provide staffing for the Task Force.”.

82 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact.

83 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
84 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
85 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

86 Sec. 4. Effective date.

87 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
88 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
89 provided in sections 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
90 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
91 Columbia Register.